COUNCIL ON ALBERTA TEACHING STANDARDS

COATS
Annual report
1996/97

105-05145/

Table of Contents

Introduction 1

Membership of the Council 2

Excellence in Teaching Awards 3-4

Certification Appeal Committee 5

1996 – 1997 COATS Accomplishments 6

Practice Review of Teachers Regulation 7

Introduction

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards (COATS) was established in 1985 by Ministerial Order and its mandate has since been reaffirmed. COATS provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of Education on matters related to teaching, including: teacher certification, teacher education, practice review, teacher excellence and other matters of interest to the Minister. COATS also is involved in the administration of the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation and the Excellence in Teaching Awards Program.

As COATS members represent various provincial education organizations, COATS conducts its activities in ways that are designed to foster, encourage and enhance partnerships within the education community. Through its work, COATS brings the education community together to work toward providing the best possible education for Alberta students.

Members of the Council

The Council on Alberta Teaching Standards is comprised of representatives from the provincial education organizations, including practicing teachers. The Chairperson of COATS is appointed from the membership by the Minister of Education. The Registrar of Alberta Education serves in an ex officio, non-voting capacity as Executive Secretary.

Teacher Members	School	Jurisdiction
Ms. Sharon Brown	Willow Creek Composite High	Livingstone Range School Div. No.7
Ms. Jean Hetherington	Vernon Barford School	Edmonton School District No.7
Mr. Lawrence Semeniuk	Wetaskiwin Composite High	Wetaskiwin Regional Div. No11
Ms. Colleen Johnson	Pat Hardy Elementary High	Wetaskiwin Regional Div. No.10
Mr. Greg Meeker	Centre High	Edmonton Public School
Ms. Barb Smith	Silver Springs Elementary	Alberta Teachers' Association

Educational Partner Representatives	Education Partners
Dr. Roger Palmer Assistant Deputy Minister	Alberta Education
Mrs. Margaret Hunziker Chair, Rocky View School Division	Alberta School Boards Association
Dr. David Young Superintendent, Parkland School Division	College of Alberta School Superintendents
Dr. W. Jim Paul University of Calgary	Faculties of Education
Ms. Debbie Cavaliere Edmonton	Public Member

Support Staff: Teacher Certification and Development Branch

Dr. John Burger	Assistant Director
Ms. Kathy Kielly	Manager, Teacher Certification
Ms. Vera Krawec	Research Officer

Support: Legal

Mr. Jerry McKenna

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The Excellence in Teaching Awards Program recognizes teachers for their creativity, innovation and effectiveness. Yearly, thousands of Albertans have joined to celebrate teaching excellence in award ceremonies across the province.

Corporate sponsors: Alberta Chamber of Commerce, Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan, Calgary Herald, The Edmonton Journal, Milner Fenerty, TELUS and Xerox Canada Ltd.

Currie & Gerrard Communications Ltd. was contracted to organize the Program.

All eligible nominees received a Certificate of Nomination in recognition of their nomination. Complete nomination packages were reviewed by a nine member Selection Committee comprised of representatives of the provincial education organizations, including two representatives of COATS. One hundred and twenty five nominees were selected as Finalists, and were presented with Finalist Certificates at local ceremonies. From among the Finalists, 20 teachers were selected to receive a Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award. The Honourable Gary G. Mar, Minister of Education, presented Award recipients with a hand-painted certificate and souvenir pin at a ceremony in Calgary. Sponsor representatives presented recipients with a cash award for their schools.

Recipients of the 1997 Provincial Excellence in Teaching Award were:

Robert Cameron	Kennedale School, Edmonton
Lori Lyn Chibry	Longview School, Longview
Grace Naomi Drake	Crestwood School, Medicine Hat
Michael Donald Eddy	Westwood Community High School, Fort McMurray
Kimberly Allen Hackman..	Ernest Morrow Junior High School, Calgary
Lillian Hampel	McNally School, Edmonton
Donna Marguerite Heine..	Evergreen School, Edson
Marian R. Hood	Ernest Morrow Junior High School, Calgary

Ignac Hozjan	Good Shepherd School, Okotoks
Geoffrey Craig Hunter	Youngstown School, Youngstown
Phyllis Grace Jenkins	Fort Saskatchewan Christian School, Fort Saskatchewan
Jean Elizabeth Laniuk	Bishop Greschuk School, Edmonton
Sylvia Leschyshyn	Austin O'Brien School, Edmonton
Mary Ann Martineau	Monsignor Doyle Elementary School, Calgary
Pamela Morie-Davidson ..	Cochrane High School, Cochrane
Louise Nadeau-Gaunce ...	St. Pius X Catholic Elementary School, Edmonton
Steven Howes Rossall	Britannia School, Edmonton
David Sobolewski	Strathearn School, Edmonton
Loren Dee Spector	W. P. Wagner School, Edmonton
Toni Charlotte ZoBell	Harbour House School, Lethbridge

Certification Appeal Committee

A teacher member of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards sits on the Certification Appeal Committee (CAC). The CAC hears appeals from individuals who have been denied interim or permanent certification by the Registrar for Alberta Education. The Committee also hears appeals of the Registrar's decisions to recommend to the Minister suspension or cancellation of individuals' teacher certification.

In 1996-97, 15 appeals were heard. Of four appeals concerning denial of teacher certification owing to criminal convictions, the appeal of three individuals was upheld and certification was issued. In one case the appeal was denied and the Registrar's decision upheld. Two appeals involved the Registrar's decision to deny certification on grounds that the employing Superintendent recommended that applicants not be granted a permanent professional teaching certificate. The Registrar's decision was upheld in one case, and overturned in the second case. Six appeals concerned the Registrar's decision to deny certification owing to the applicant not possessing an acceptable teacher preparation program. The Registrar's decision was upheld in five cases, and overturned in one case. Three appeals involved the Registrar's decision to deny certification on the grounds that applicants did not possess Canadian citizenship. The Registrar's decision was upheld in two cases. The third case was deferred.

1996 – 1997 COATS Accomplishments

In 1996 - 1997, COATS established two working groups to attend to the tasks outlined by the Minister of Education in a letter to the COATS Chair. One working group was charged with developing a guide teachers and administrators can use to implement individual professional development plans as outlined in the *Quality Teaching Position Paper*. A second working group was charged with drafting amendments to the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation.

Working Committee on Individual Teacher Professional Development Plans

The Working Committee resolved that the goal of professional development is to help teachers become better teachers to the ultimate benefit of students' learning.

The draft brochure proposed by the Committee is intended to serve as a stand-alone guide to assist teachers to develop Individual Professional Development Plans. It is also intended to supplement the Alberta Teachers'Association's professional development workshop initiative.

Working Committee on the Practice Review of Teachers Regulation

The revised Practice Review of Teachers Regulation developed by the Committee for the Minister's consideration will apply to all teachers in respect to complaints about teaching practices. In respect to conduct complaints, the Regulation will apply only to teachers to whom the Teaching Profession Act does not apply.

The Working Committee reviewed the Regulation, and made a number of revisions. The Committee's product was reviewed by Alberta Justice, and has been vetted through the Regulatory Reform process. It is anticipated that the new Regulation will be in place in 1998.

Representatives of COATS, Alberta Education, the Alberta School Boards Association, the Alberta Home and School Councils Association and the Alberta Teachers' Association met in May 1997 to discuss publicizing the practice review of teachers process. It was agreed that it is critical to publicize the 'reporting' aspects of the new Regulation, and to make the public more aware of how complaints about a teacher's practice may be made. It was also agreed that information should be made available to parents about how to make complaints about the unprofessional conduct of a teacher.

In the course of the 1996/97 school year, the Registrar received 27 telephone calls from parents concerned about a teacher's teaching. The majority of calls were addressed by urging the parent to pursue the concern at the local level in a problem- solving manner that focuses on the parents' and teachers' common goal of optimizing student learning. The Registrar mailed information about how to make a complaint about a teacher's teaching to eight parents.

A written complaint was received in respect to a Calgary teacher and a preliminary inquiry was initiated. On the basis of the inquiry, the Registrar directed that no further action be taken. The complainants appealed to the Complainant Appeal Committee. The Committee upheld the decision of the Registrar.

Further information about any activities of the Council on Alberta Teaching Standards may be obtained by contacting:

Fred Burghardt
Executive Secretary
Council on Alberta Teaching Standards
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K OL2
Phone: (403) 427-2045
Fax: (403) 4224199